

EDUCATION & SEMINARS

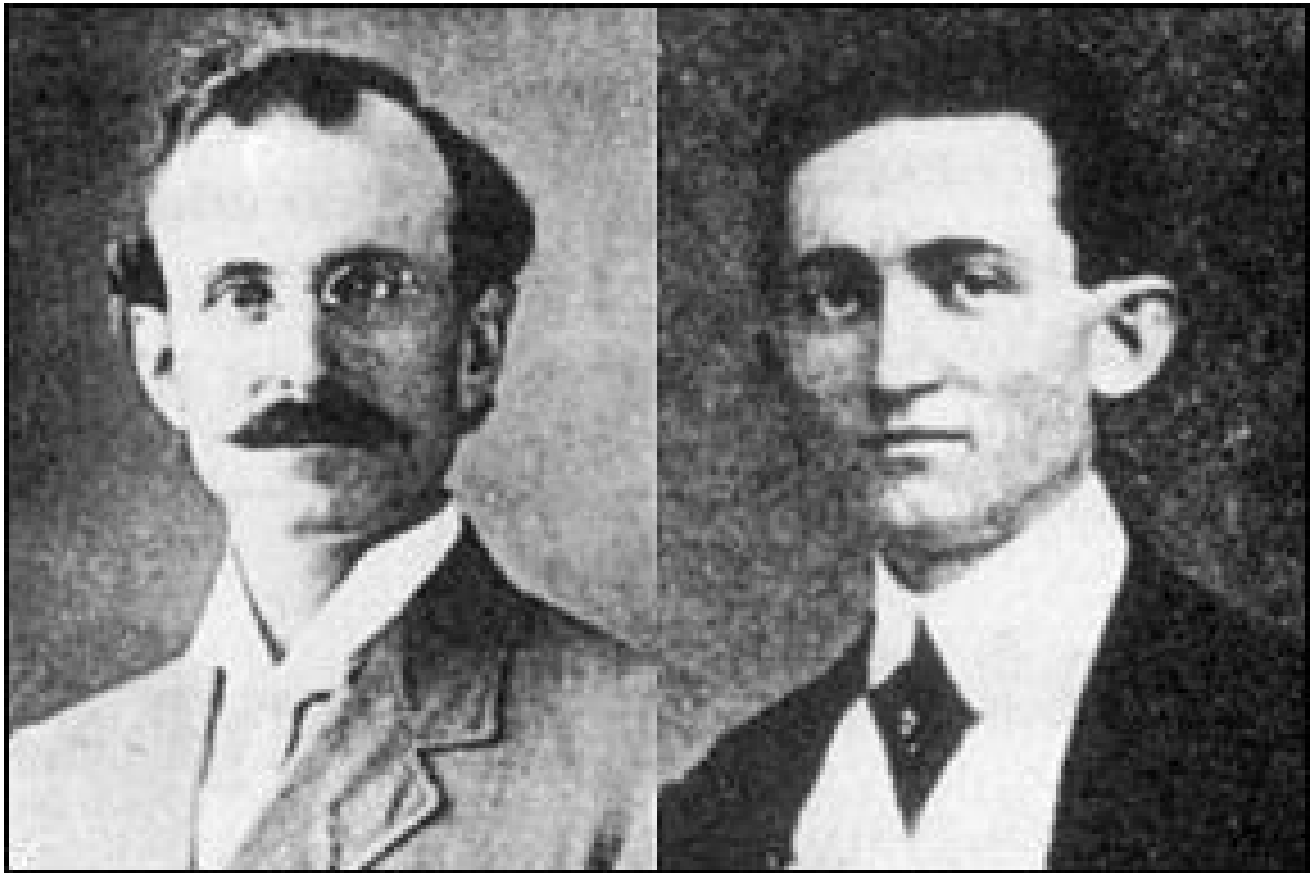
## Carver College: An Oklahoma Contribution to Chiropractic (Part 1 of 2)

Joseph Keating Jr., PhD

Willard Carver, LLB., an Iowa-born and Drake University-educated attorney who had performed legal services for D.D. Palmer in the early years of the chirocentury, founded the Carver-Denny

"Kiropractic" College in Oklahoma City in 1906.<sup>3</sup> Like his partners in the venture, Drs. L.L. Denny and Myrtle V. Denny, Carver was a 1906 graduate of the Parker School of Chiropractic in Ottumwa, Iowa.<sup>13</sup> The Dennys had departed the new institution by 1909, and the school was briefly known as the Carver-McColl College, reflecting Willard's partnership with attorney/chiropractor A.C. McColl, LLB, DC.

Carver College was a "straight" chiropractic institution, although Willard sparred with "old dad chiro" over the appropriateness of "suggestive therapeutics" (psychological interventions).<sup>2</sup> During Willard Carver's leadership, the college offered a curriculum of 18 months. Early graduates departed the school with a firm commitment to relieving "obstructive nerve pressure"<sup>8</sup> and a sense of "Americanism" in their struggle with political medicine.<sup>12</sup> As well, they learned a unique set of theories, techniques and terminology (relatology, poseology) for the adjustive arts, all the product of Dr. Carver's fertile mind. With their mentor, they pioneered the "structural approach" to chiropractic,<sup>10,13</sup> an alternative to the "segmentalism" of the Palmers.<sup>6,11</sup> A great many Carver alumni would become significant figures in the history of the profession.



Drs. Willard Carver and L.L. Denny.

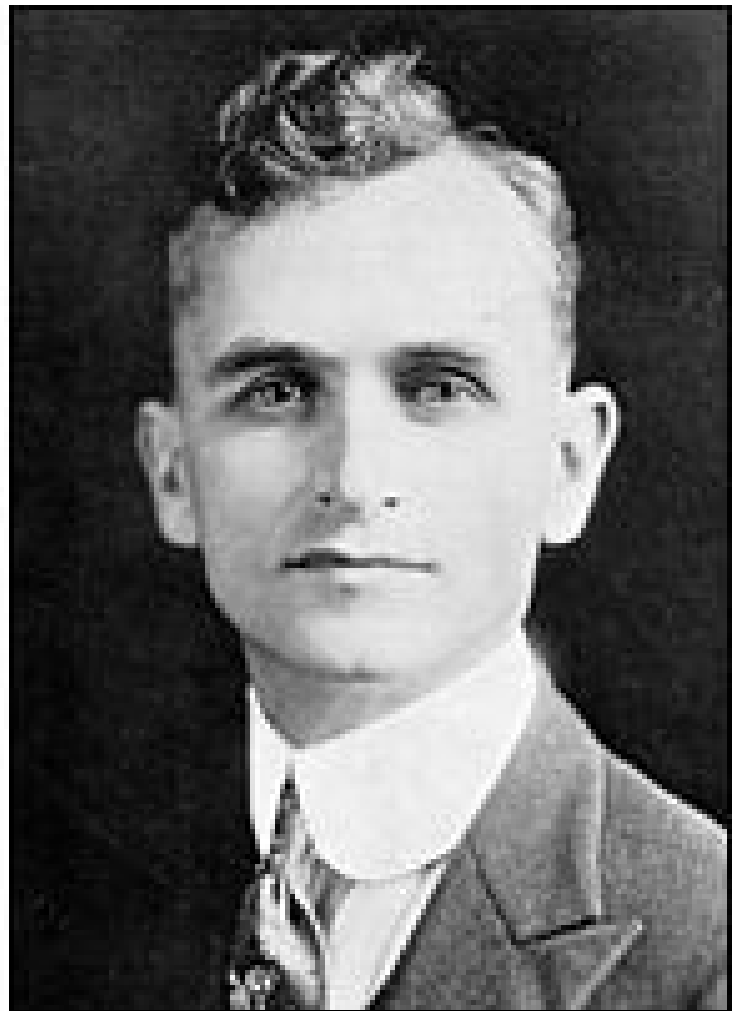


Original campus of the Carver College, circa 1907 (courtesy of Robert B. Jackson, DC, ND).



Dr. A.C. McColl;  
from the 1916 college  
yearbook *The Pioneer*  
(courtesy of Texas  
Chiropractic College  
library).

1907 Carver graduate  
T.F. Ratledge, DC,  
founded schools  
in Arkansas, Kansas  
and California - today's  
Cleveland College  
of Los Angeles - and  
battled both political  
medicine and broad-  
scope chiropractors.





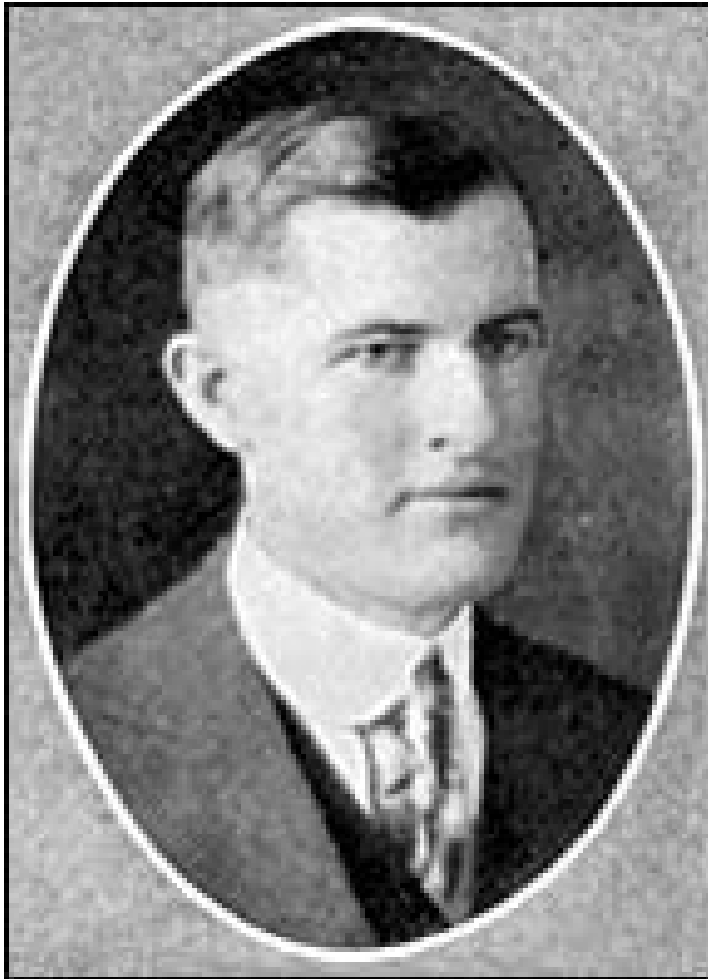
1917 Carver graduate J. Wilber Lawrence, DC was a longtime member of the boards of directors of the ACA (1920s) and NCA (Courtesy NCA photo collection).





1918 Carver alumnus Kelly C. Robinson, DC, served as dean of the Oklahoma school as well as the Carver Institute in New York City; he later served as president of the NCA (1938-39).

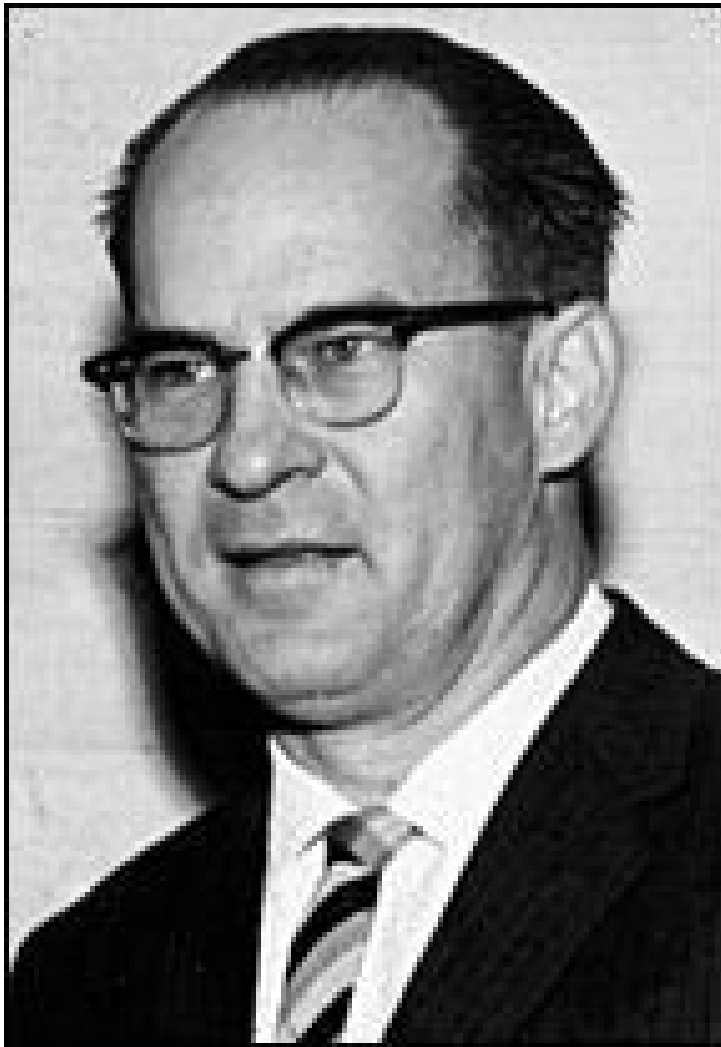




1921 Carver alumnus John L. Thompson, DC, was a pioneer for chiropractic in Alabama, where he practiced for more than 50 years (courtesy of Texas Chiropractic College library).

1922 Carver graduate  
Homer G. Beatty, DC,  
ND, took over the  
Carver-founded  
Colorado Chiropractic  
University and  
re-created it as the  
University of Natural  
Healing Arts.





1938 Carver graduate Tom Lawrence, DC, son of Dr. J. Wilbern Lawrence, was a leader in the NCA and a co-founder of today's ACA. He is retired in Meridian, Mississippi.



**Officers of the American Chiropractic Association gather during the society's 1928 convention at Yellowstone National Park. Second from left is Carver graduate Wilbern Lawrence, DC; fourth from left is Ruland W. Lee, DC, of New Jersey; second from right is Benjamin A. Sauer, DC, of New York, secretary-treasurer of the ACA (courtesy of Tom Lawrence, DC).**

Willard Carver provided a mighty role model for his students and alumni. They stood in awe of his determination to establish the legal basis of chiropractic in the Sooner State and elsewhere. His 1917

charge that the Oklahoma Senate had been bribed to block passage of a chiropractic statute landed him in jail when the Senate charged him with contempt.<sup>4</sup> But it didn't deter the self-designated, "Constructor of Chiropractic" whose continuing efforts saw a law passed in Oklahoma in 1921.



Physician-chiropractor John C. Hubbard (seen here in 1916) operated the Hubbard Hospital in Oklahoma City and taught at Carver Chiropractic College.

<i>Senate Orders Arrest of Local Chiropractor On Contempt Charge</i>	
<b>AUSTRIA MAY DEFY GERMANY TO RETAIN U. S. FRIENDSHIP</b>	
<b>OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES</b>	
<small>First Edition Published Every Morning Except Sundays and Holidays</small>	
<small>OKLAHOMA CITY, FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1921.</small>	<b>HOME EDITION</b>

Physician-chiropractor John C. Hubbard (seen here in 1916) operated the Hubbard Hospital in Oklahoma City and taught at Carver Chiropractic College.



Dr. Bera Smith (upper right corner) and members of the Smith family of chiropractors, all Carver alumni (courtesy of Texas Chiropractic College library).



Faculty and students traveled by train to attend the annual convention of the Kansas Chiropractic Association in 1920.



**Students and faculty gather on the Carver College campus in Oklahoma City, 1916 (courtesy of Texas Chiropractic College library).**





Faculty and postgraduate students gather in front of the campus, 1921.



**D.D. Palmer Hospital of the Carver Chiropractic College, 1916 (courtesy of Texas Chiropractic College).**



## Campus of the Carver Chiropractic College of Oklahoma City, 1922 (courtesy of Texas Chiropractic College library).

Dr. Carver operated his Oklahoma City school continuously until 1929, when a severe illness prompted him to turn the reins of the institution over to 1921 graduate Bera A. Smith, DC, a member of an extended chiropractic family. However, Willard was soon dismayed to learn that Dr. Smith had introduced a "nauseating conglomeration" of courses and equipment that Dr. Carver abhorred: physiotherapeutics, including radionics. Carver again took control of the Oklahoma City school on January 28, 1933, and promptly had all the offending devices removed from campus. He would remain as head of the college until his passing on December 23, 1943.<sup>4</sup>

[*Editor's note:* Complete references will be published with part 2 of this article.]

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